1	2	3
21.	Organisation of Beneficiaries	1.00
22.	Panchayat Development and Training	1.00
23.	Roads in Special Problem Areas	2.00
24.	Rural Godowns	0.01
25.	Development of Rural Markets	0.01
26.	Centre for Agril. Marketing	4.00
27.	Estt. Expenditure of Directorate of Marketing & Inspection	3.00
28.	Building for Afro-Asian Rural Reconstruction Organisation.	0.50
29.	Rural Housing	10.00
	TOTAL	3100.00

Low Priority to the Rural Development Scheme

476. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:
DR. JINENDRA KUMAR JAIN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem published in the "Economic Times" dated the 22nd December, 1992 under the caption "wrong priorities";

(b) if so, whether low priority is likely to be given to the rural development schemes during the financial year 1993-94 as compared to the previous years; and

(c) if not, what is the factual position in this regard?

THE MINISTRY OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT) SHRI UTTAMBHAI H. PATEL: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Budget estimates for 1993-94 have not been presented in Lok Sabha.

Reclamation of 'Wastelands

477. SHRI RAMCHANDRAN PILLAI:
SHRI E. BALANANDAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what are Government's plan for wasteland development and reclamation of wasteland in the country.

(b) the details of the areas identified for wasteland development; and

(c) the agencies through which such projects are proposed to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF WASTELANDS DEVELOPMENT) (COL. RAM SINGH): (a) the reconstituted National Wastelands Development Board (NWDB) under the newly created Department of Wastelands Development has adopted a board strategy for sustainable development of non-forest wastelands aimed at checking land degradation, putting such lands to sustainable use and increasing biomass production especially of fuelwood and fodder.

The following schemes have been proposed for implementation during the remaining part of the Eighth Five Year Plan:

1. Integrated Wastelands Development Project Scheme.

2. Investment Promotional Scheme.

3. Technology Development and Extension Scheme.

4. Support to Non-Government Organisations for Wastelands Development.

5. Scheme for Promotional and Critical Support services.

6. Wastelands Development Task Force.

(b) No detailed survey has yet been conducted for identification of wasterlands but according to one estimate, the total extent of wastelands in the country is 130 million hectares out of which 93.69 million hectares is non-forest lands which form part of the mandate of the reconstituted NWDB.

(c) Development of wastelands in the country is being carried out through the various Departments of State Governments autonomous State and Central bodies. Non Government Organisations and Voluntary Agencies.

Enaetment of a Legislation on Illegal Possession of Panchayat Land

478. SHRI RAMJI LAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to enact a law to prevent illegal possession of Panchayat land;

(b) if so, whether the law is likely to be passed during the current session of Parliament; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINSITER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT): (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Panchayat Elections in the Various States

479. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether village Panchayat elections are due in several States of the country;

(b) if so, the names of these States;

(c) whether these elections would be held in accordance with the provisions of the Panchayat Raj Act recently passed by the Parliament;

(d) if so, whether the State Governments have been asked to frame the rules accordingly before holding elections; and

(e) if so, the reaction of the State Governments thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT) (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) and (b) A statement showing the names of States where village Panchayat elections are already due or due in 1993, as per the information received from the State Governments is placed at statement *(See* below)

(c) The Constitution (Seventy-second Amendment) Bill, 1991 on Panchayats, which has been passed by Parliament is yet to become an Act as it has to be ratified by not less than one half of the State Legislatures, before being presented to the President of India for assent. The Bill provides that all Panchayats existing immediately before the commencement of the Act shall continue till the expiration of their duration, unless sooner dissolved by a resolution passed to that effect by the legislative Assembly of that State or in case of a State having a Legislative Council, by each house of the Legislature of that State. After the commencement of the Constitution Amendment Act, the State Governments would be required to modify their Panchayat Acts so as to conform to the provisions of the Central Act within one year from such commencement. Elections will be held in accordance with the provisions, of the State Panchayat Acts only.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Statement

Names of States where Village Panchayat elections are already due or due in 1993

1. Andhra Pradesh
2. Arunachal Pradesh